

SERMON NOTES: MARK 10:17-39

Focus on Mark 10:29-31: *"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."*

- **Main teaching point of the passage:**

Entering the kingdom of heaven/eternal life is through God alone – which is true treasure

- **Key points from the passage to support and demonstrate the main teaching point:**

- Wealth blinds us v.21, 23
- Only God gives salvation v.24, 27
- Jesus is true treasure (Matthew 13:44-46 and Phillipians 3:7-11)
- Salvation is free but following Jesus is costly. Following Jesus might result in persecution and poverty on earth (v. 29-31) but ensures treasures in heaven – true treasure.

- **Illustrations to help with key points:**

- Jim Elliot illustration and quote: "He is no fool to give up what he can not keep to gain what he can not lose"
- On January 9, 1985, Pastor Hristo Kulichev, a Congregational pastor in Bulgaria, was arrested and put in prison. His crime was that he preached in his church even though the state had appointed another man the pastor whom the congregation did not elect. His trial was a mockery of justice, and he was sentenced to eight months imprisonment. During his time in prison he made Christ known every way he could. When he got out he wrote, "Both prisoners and jailers asked many questions, and it turned out that we had a more fruitful ministry there than we could have expected in church. God was better served by our presence in prison than if we had been free." (Herbert Schlossberg, *Called to Suffer, Called to Triumph*, p. 230) from <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/spreading-power-through-persecution>

- **Suggested applications for congregation**

- Examine our hearts. Where are we storing up treasure – here on earth or in heaven? What are we living for? Christ is calling us to purposefully follow him with our whole lives.
- Jesus made it very clear that following him means being concerned for those that have never had the chance to hear the good news. As our concern turns into action, praying and going to the nations, we know that we are investing our lives wisely.

